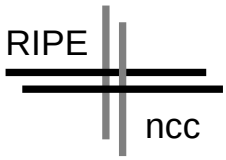


# EUROPEAN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM NUMBER APPLICATION FORM & SUPPORTING NOTES

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To whom it may concern.

Thank you for your request for an Autonomous System (AS) number. The documentation below consists of two sections : the first section refers to SUPPORTING NOTES which give a definition and description of what an Autonomous System is, together with a description of when an AS number is needed and necessary. It is important that you read this section carefully.

The second section, the AS NUMBER TEMPLATE is the actual template that must be completed and returned to the RIPE Network Coordination Centre (NCC). The template is divided into two parts:

Part A - Administrative Details
Part B - Technical Details

You must complete part A in full. This is Mandatory. Part B should also be filled in, but at the time of application you may not know all the technical details. You can still get an AS number without completing Part B, but you are urged to submit the information as soon as possible.

Please ensure that you read all the information below carefully before submitting your application for an AS number. For more detailed explanations please refer to the paper **"Representation of IP Routing Policies in the RIPE Database"** RIPE document ID: ripe-081.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the RIPE NCC who will be able to advise you. Our contact details are given below:

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1098 SJ Amsterdam
The Netherlands

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Yours sincerely.
hostmaster@ripe.net
**RIPE Network Coordination Centre**

**SUPPORTING NOTES for AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM (AS) NUMBER REQUESTS**

Please read the information below carefully. It is important that you read this before completing the template in the following section as it contains essential definitions.

**What is an Autonomous System ?**

An Autonomous System (AS) is a group of IP networks run by one or more network operators which has a single and clearly defined routing policy.

An AS has a unique number associated with it which is used in both the exchange of exterior routing information (i.e. network reachability information between ASes) and as an identifier of the AS itself. Exterior routing protocols such as BGP and EGP are used to exchange routing information between ASes.

In routing terms an AS will normally use one or more interior gateway protocols when exchanging network information within its own AS.

The term AS is often confused or even misused as a convenient way of grouping together a set of networks which belong under the same administrative umbrella even if within that group of networks there are various different routing policies. ASes can strictly have only one single routing policy.

On the other hand, the creation of an AS should be done in a conscious and well coordinated manner to avoid creating ASes for the sake of it, perhaps resulting in the worst case scenario of one AS per IP network number. This may mean that by applying the general rules for the creation and allocation of an AS below, some re-engineering may be needed. However, this may be the only way to actually implement a desired routing policy anyway.

**How can I be sure I need an AS number ?**

- Creation of an AS is only required when exchanging routing information with other ASes. Some router implementations make use of an AS number as a form of tagging to identify the routing process. However, it should be noted that this tag does not need to be unique unless routing information is indeed exchanged with other ASes.

- An IP network number can and must only belong to one AS. This is a direct consequence of the fact that at each point in the Internet there can only be exactly one routing policy for traffic destined to each network. In the case of the IP network which is used in neighbor peering between two ASes, say at the border between two ASes, a conscious decision must be made as to which AS this IP network number actually resides in.

- For a simple case of customer networks connected to a single service provider, the IP network should be a member of the service provider's AS. In terms of routing policy the IP network has exactly the same policy as the service provider and there is no need to make any distinction in routing information. This idea may at first seem slightly alien to some, but it highlights the clear distinction in the use of the AS number as a representation of routing policy as opposed to some form of administrative use.

- If a network operator connects to more than one AS with different routing policies then they need to create their own AS. In the case of multi-homed customer networks connected to

two service providers there are at least two different routing policies to a given customer network. At this point the customer networks will be part of a single AS and this AS would be distinct from either of the service providers ASes. This allows the customer the ability of having a different representation of policy and preference to the different service providers. This is the ONLY case where a network operator should create its own AS number.

- As a general rule one should always try to populate the AS with as many IP networks as possible, providing all IP networks conform to the same routing policy.

Each AS is represented in the RIPE database by an AS object. The AS object stores descriptive, administrative and contact information about the AS as well as the technical information relating to the routing policies of the AS in relation to all neighboring ASes.

Example of a completed allocated AS number template which contains information which is stored in the RIPE Network Management Database.

```
aut-num:  AS1104
descr:    NIKHEF-H Autonomous system
tech-c:   Rob Blokzijl
admin-c:  Eric Wassenaar
source:   RIPE
changed:  k13@nikhef.nl 920713
changed:  ripe-dbm@ripe.net 920910
as-in:    AS1213 100 AS1213
as-in:    AS1913 100 AS1913
as-in:    AS1755 150 ANY
as-out:   AS1213 ANY
as-out:   AS1913 ANY
as-out:   AS1755 AS1104 AS1913 AS1213
guardian: as-guardian@nikhef.nl
```

This example contains Part B - technical details "routing policy" information which it is not strictly necessary to supply in the initial application for an AS number, but which you are strongly urged to complete in the future when you know your "routing policy". This is especially important if you intend to connect to the Global Internet at some stage in the future.

It is important to note that if you decide to send in your "routing policy" later on, then you MUST accompany it with the full administrative information. Otherwise we will not know to which autonomous system and to which organisation the routing information applies!

**Part A - Administrative Details**

**ADMINISTRATIVE TEMPLATE**

**aut-num:**

How many AS numbers do you require?

Format: Please complete with a number
Example:

```
aut-num: 1
```

**descr:**

A short description of the Autonomous system.

Format: free text, multiple lines in sequence allowed as in example below
Example:

```
descr:   NIKHEF section H
descr:   Science Park Watergraafsmeer
descr:   Amsterdam
```

**tech-c:**

Name or NIC-handle of technical contact person. This is someone to be contacted for technical problems such as misconfiguration, etc.

Format: <firstname> <initials> <lastname>, multiple lines.
Example:

```
tech-c: John E. Doe
```

**admin-c:**

Name or NIC-handle of administrative contact person. This is most likely to be the same name as the guardian but it is not mandatory for it to be.

Format: <firstname> <initials> <lastname>, multiple lines.
Example:

```
admin-c: Joe T. Bloggs
```

**changed:**

Email address of the person who is completing the template, followed by the current date. If you do not have email connectivity please leave blank and we will complete it.

Format: as shown below.
Example:

```
changed: johndoe@terabit.nl 930225
```

**source: RIPE**

Source of the information. It will always be RIPE. This is information which is always required in the database, so it has been added already.

**Part B - Technical Details**

You may not at the time of applying for your AS number know the technical details requested below. Therefore we do not make completing this section mandatory. However, you are *strongly urged* to complete this section as soon as possible once you know your routing policy and return your amended template to <hostmaster@ripe.net> for inclusion in the RIPE Network Management Database. Please note, that if you send this section in later, you must send it in accompanied by a completed Section A - Administrative Details otherwise we will not know to which AS or which organisation the routing policy information applies.

**TECHNICAL TEMPLATE**

**as-in:**

A description of accepted routing information from neighboring ASes.

Format: <aut-num> <cost> <routing policy expression>, on multiple lines. where:

<aut-num> refers to your neighboring AS.

<cost> is a positive integer used to express a relative cost of routes learned. The lower the cost the more preferred the route.

<routing policy expression> can take the following formats:

1. A list of one or more ASes.

Example:

```
as-in: AS1103 100 AS1103
as-in: AS786  105 AS1103
as-in: AS786  10  AS786
as-in: AS1755 110 AS1103 AS786
```

2. A set of KEYWORDS. The following keywords are currently defined.

Example:

```
ANY — this means anything the neighbor AS knows.

RIPE-DB — any network currently in the RIPE database.

LOCAL — any network in the RIPE database which is part of the com-
munity LOCAL (i.e. no connectivity outside its own organisation).
```

3. A logical expression of either 1 or 2 above. The current logical operators are defined as:

```
AND
OR
NOT
```

Rules are grouped together using parenthesis i.e "(" and ")".

Example:

```
as-in: AS1755 100 RIPE-DB AND NOT (LOCAL AS513)
as-in: AS1755 150 DEFAULT
```

**as-out:**

A description of generated routing information sent to other AS peers.

Format:<aut-num> <routing policy expression>, multiple lines. Where:

<aut-num> refers to your AS neighbor.

<routing policy expression> is explained in the as-in definition
Example:

```
as-out: AS1104 AS978
as-out: AS1755 ANY
as-out: AS786 RIPE-DB AND NOT (AS978 LOCAL)
```

**default:**

An indication of how default routing is done.

Format: <aut-num> <relative cost>, multiple lines. Where:

<aut-num> The AS peer you will default route to.

<relative cost> The relative cost is a positive integer use to express a preference for default. There is no relationship to the cost used in the "as-in" tag. The lower the cost indicates which AS peer is more preferred for default.
Example:

```
default: AS1755 10
default: AS786  5
```

**guardian:**

Mailbox address of the guardian of the Autonomous System

Format: <email-address>, single line. This should be in RFC822 format wherever possible.
Example:

```
guardian: as1104-guardian@nikhef.nl
```

# EUROPEAN AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM NUMBER
# APPLICATION FORM

**Part A - ADMINISTRATIVE TEMPLATE**

```
aut-num:
descr:
tech-c:
admin-c:
source: RIPE
changed:
```

**Part B - TECHNICAL TEMPLATE**

```
as-in:
as-in:
as-in:
as-out:
as-out:
as-out:
guardian:
```

Please return this completed template to **<hostmaster@ripe.net>.** You can also send it by fax. Mark your fax for the attention of **RIPE NCC HOSTMASTER.** Our fax number is **+31 20 592 5090.**